

The Children's Newspaper, Week Ending March 4, 1944

FORWARD, IN THE 1940 SPIRIT

GRUMBLING is said to be a prerogative of the Englishman. He likes to "get off his chest" the irritations and little injustices of which life seems so full. He likes to talk about them and turn them over and over again. Nothing will change his opinion about his own particular grumble. He cherishes it and preserves it. It comes out in most conversations. Indeed, he sees to it that the talk always comes round to his favourite grumble.

Occasionally, however, a truth slips out in a grumble which is worth noting. A soldier who had moved about Britain a great deal remarked to a friend the other day that people were not so unselfish as they were in 1940. "When we were being bombed and battered," he said, "people helped each other and were unselfish, but now the old spirit is creeping back."

The Merit of Hardship

He grumbled because of it, but his grumble had a measure of truth in it. "It needs hardship," he went on, "to make people friendly." According to this philosopher, the tougher life is, the more we come to understand its toughness for the other man.

This grumble, indeed, had some truth in it. It is true of us as a nation. Something of the unselfishness of the "finest hour" period has been slipping out of our life. Many of us are going about our jobs less braced and with less resolution. There is less readiness to believe in the other man, and more readiness to look after one's own position. When the bombs were falling fast on Britain such things as possessions, houses, and comforts mattered very little. They took their place in the general plan of life and were seen to be less important than had been suspected.

BUT now that the tide of war swings forward in our favour, and we begin to look out to the future with some certainty, the old selfishness is creeping in again. The fine cheerful appreciativeness of the "other man" is not now so readily forthcoming. It is harder to be patient and forgiving. We are nearer to the frayed ends of life and not so close to the heart of it as when the nearness of death and destruction gave us insight and vision.

A Touchstone For All Time

This is a true grumble about Britain. But by realising the causes and promptly remedying them we can attain the same heights as the time of our "finest hour" revealed. We are the same people as faced those days. We have the same capacities, the same virtues, and the same failings. We can use them to win the same victories. The young men now scattered across the world in camps and armies must not come home to a weary, dispirited people who have grown cold and greedy in the ways of selfishness. They must come home to a people warm and welcoming who are ready to incorporate new ideas and new ways into the national life. Give us a new Britain and a new world! That cry goes up from the hearts of thousands, but the task of turning that cry into achievement faces us all.

It matters very much whether we turn a true grumble into a true victory for unselfishness. It may not appear to be much if in the crowded bus we give up our seat to a weary fellow-traveller; if in the workshop

we remember that the bosses are not always wrong; if we remember that the shop-keeper is doing his best with limited supplies; if we believe that the officer of our platoon in the Army really cares for the welfare of his men. These are the small things of a nation's life which mark us in character as the kind of people we are. They affect the climate and the atmosphere, and they provide the spirit and purpose of our life.

Moving Forward Together

Turning a true grumble into victory means, too, that we shall recapture some of the vision and purpose of the conflict that we have embarked on. It was the wide and deep sweep of life in 1940 that gave men that high step and courage. We can enter that stage again by looking broadly on the world picture not backward but forward. As Mr Churchill has said: Deadly dangers still beset us. Weariness, complacency or discord, squabbles over petty matters, will mar our prospects. We must all drive ourselves to the utmost limit of our strength. We must preserve and refine our sense of proportion. We must strive to combine the virtues of wisdom and daring. We must move forward together, united and inexorable.

THE glorious purposes ahead will require the same dedication as did the days of 1940. We must leave behind the dark valley of grumbling and scale the mountains of achievement ahead.

It is in the attack on those mountains that men lose the weights of selfishness. It was Pilgrim's realisation that he was on the road to the Celestial City that kept his vision clear. Whenever he settled down at ease, or whenever he stopped merely to air his grumbles, he began to lose his spirit. It was when he was battling with the opposing forces of evil that Pilgrim kept his courage high and his spirit clean and fresh.

The Spirit of the Eighth

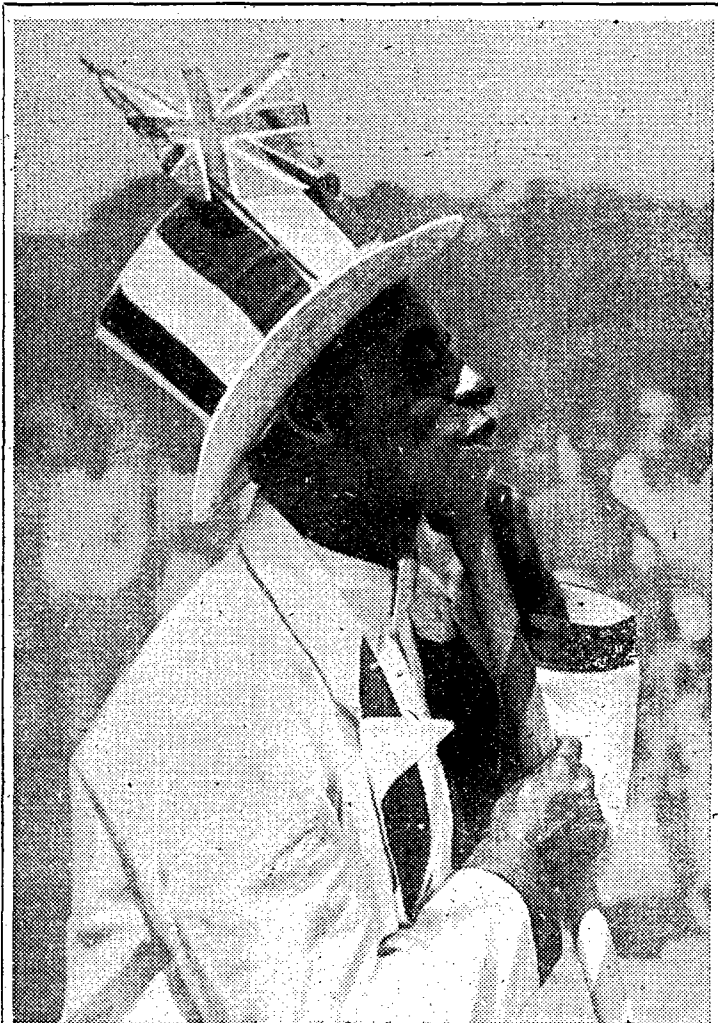
Pilgrim could be a good grumbler. He was not free from it. But he knew how to get rid of it so that it did not grow into resentment and hatred. In his spirit let us tackle the hard jobs with spirit and gaiety, doing the things we do not want to do with the cheerfulness we put into those we want to do, and helping others to put the same cheerfulness into their difficult undertakings.

General Montgomery put something of this spirit into his famous 8th Army in the hard fighting in Italy. A half a mile a day had been their rate of progress in the mountains of Italy. Rain, cold, and wind had fought against them as well as the Germans. But Montgomery's spirit dispelled all grumbling. Across the swollen rivers and along the bombed mountain roads the Crusaders of the 8th Army have plugged away with determination and unselfishness. In the past they have grumbled with all the vigour that a British Tommy can put into his grumbling. But above the grumbling has shone the glory of attack and achievement.

It is the spirit of the 8th Army that must invade all the homes and schools and workshops of Britain.

A true grumble and the spirit of the 8th! What a mixture for Britain at this hour! It is the true mixture of banter and boldness; of grumbling and grit, of selfless endeavour. Let us have more of this spirit as we move to the final achievements of 1944.

CHILDREN'S EVERY TUESDAY 3d
NEWSPAPER
POSTAGE
Inland 1d
Abroad 1d
No 1302
FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE



A Son of Empire

A striking figure in the "Coloured Coons Parade" which was seen by large crowds at Capetown not long ago

The Little Rescue Ships

THE little ships of the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy have a wonderful war record, from the speedy MTBs of the Light Coastal Forces to the sturdy corvettes, and the yachts, fishing-boats, and paddle-steamers which went to Dunkirk.

Early in 1941, when the menace of the U-boat attained its peak of success, these little coastal vessels were ordered to meet, far out in the Atlantic, convoys laden with food and munitions, and to follow in their wake and pick up the survivors

of torpedoed merchantmen. In this way coastal vessels have rescued over 3500 Allied sailors.

It is of paramount importance that these ships should not be vulnerable to submarine or air attack. Hence those chosen for this work are smaller and faster than the normal ocean-going vessels. They have a formidable armament and anti-aircraft guns, while boom nets are generally fitted for hauling aboard torpedoed sailors. On many of these ships hospital wards and operating theatres are fitted

TWO ADOPTED DUCKLINGS

A DELIGHTFUL tale of a cat acting as foster-mother to two ducklings in addition to bringing up her own family of four has come from Auckland, New Zealand. The two ducklings were hatched late one night on a hot-water bottle from eggs discarded from an incubator.

More in fun than anything else, they were placed in a box with the cat and her 10-day-old kittens. From the beginning the cat treated the ducklings with

the same careful consideration she gave to her own offspring. Throughout the day the ducklings were never far from their foster-mother, trailing her wherever she went. At night they nestled with the kittens in her soft fur.

Much amusement was caused one afternoon by the sight of the mother cat walking up the path with one of the ducklings held firmly in her mouth, while the other waddled closely behind her.

Looking After the Nation's Health

THE Government have recently published as a White Paper their proposals for a National Health Service. They form a complete and comprehensive plan, covering Medical Care, Nursing, Hospital Services, the help of Consultants and Specialists, Dental and Eye Services, and free Home Nursing.

Clearly expressed in 55,000 words, this booklet costs only one shilling and can be ordered from any newsagent; while a summary of the proposals in 13,500 words can be bought for 3d.

This White Paper has been welcomed, for its aims are excellent, and are treated with breadth and vision. Who indeed does not now support the view of the Government in their statement that

"Everybody — irrespective of means, age, sex, or occupation — shall have equal opportunity to benefit from the best and most up-to-date medical and allied services available."

The publication of the White Paper means that the Government desire to enlist the aid of all competent persons in establishing a Health Charter for the entire nation. The proposals will be debated in Parliament, and there will be thorough discussions with the doctors and others affected by the suggested changes. Definite legislation will then be introduced into Parliament.

It is not yet possible to estimate the cost of the plan, but it will probably be some £150,000,000 a year as compared with the £61,000,000 now spent on health services. In this connection we must not forget the millions of national wealth now lost by avoidable sickness.

Great Advantages

No word of compulsion appears in the proposals. The citizen will be free to select his own doctor. The doctor will be free to work in his own surgery for private patients or to share in the new public service in his area, or again to work with a group of doctors at the local health centre while also carrying on his private practice.

The Government believe that "grouped" medical practice will provide great advantages for all. We may hope to see health centres set up in each area as specially designed and thoroughly equipped buildings, with ample reception and waiting-rooms, recovery and rest rooms, facilities for minor surgery, a laboratory and a dark room, and accommodation for secretarial and nursing

staffs. Presumably medical men who are panel doctors under the National Health Insurance will carry on in consulting-rooms of their own at the health centres. Doctors grouped at a health centre will be able to help each other and thus help their patients.

The Government have aimed at preserving local responsibility with sufficient central direction and control to obtain a coherent national service. Final responsibility must, of course, rest with the Minister of Health, who is directly answerable to Parliament.

Distribution of Doctors

There will be appointed a professional and expert statutory body, the Central Health Services Council, to consult with and advise the Minister; while a Central Medical Board will administer the day-to-day working of the general medical service. This Board would negotiate conditions of service, and see to it that there is a fair distribution of doctors over the country as a whole. Its local committees will take over the work of the National Insurance Scheme Committees.

To secure adequate services the existing County and County Borough Councils will combine in Joint Boards as the local area authorities. These will secure complete hospital and consultant services for each such enlarged area, with a proper hospital plan. They will also work out a scheme for related services of all kinds, including local clinics and home nursing. In all cases the hospital and consultant services will be the joint authority's responsibility. The Child Welfare Service, however, will come under the authorities made responsible by the new Education Bill.

It is proposed to bring the voluntary hospitals into the general hospital scheme, but no voluntary hospital will be compelled to participate.

Finally, it is hoped that this new national service will not only relieve the sick, but make its chief aim the preservation and building up of the health of every man, woman, and child in this island.

A LAKELAND GIFT

IN bequeathing 4000 acres in the Lake District to the National Trust Beatrix Potter made the biggest gift the Trust has ever received in that area, and increased its holdings there to over 18,000 acres. She also left £5000 for improvements and additions to the property.

In her lifetime Beatrix Potter was able to preserve several corners of the countryside she loved so well, and her bequest to the nation includes farms and woods and cottages at Conistone, Little Langdale, Skelwith, and Hawkshead, as well as much of the lovely Troutbeck Valley.

Many of Beatrix Potter's books were written at Hill Top Farmhouse, Sawrey, near Lake Windermere.

There it was that Peter Rabbit, and Tabitha Twitchit, and Thomasina Tittlemouse, and others of the amusing company used to assemble; and it is hoped that this home of their creator will one day become a memorial to her.

Peter and his companions have secured for Beatrix Potter an abiding corner of Nurseryland. Beatrix Potter has secured for us all some of the lovely corners of Lakeland; and in appreciation of her generous spirit we may recall the Lakeland poet's words:

*Enough, if something from our hands have power
To live, and act, and serve the future hour.*

LITTLE NEWS REELS

AMONG the many 1943 gifts to the National Trust of Scotland was an anonymous one of £7000 to buy mountainous country.

The Gloucestershire County Council have decided that the best place for a road across the Severn estuary is between Beachley Peninsula and Aust Cliff.

Wireless licences in Great Britain and Northern Ireland numbered 9,420,000 at the end of 1943.

Red Cross Sales have received the gift of a watch that once belonged to Nelson.

The Royal Academy has an exhibition of disabled men at work, showing the practical results of rehabilitation.

A Polish army corps is now fighting in Italy.

THE US 1943 gold output of 1,300,000 ounces was the lowest since gold was first discovered there in 1848. The coal output of 583 million tons was the highest on record.

America's contribution to UNRRA will be £337,500,000.

Penicillin is being produced in India.

At the beginning of the war the Army had 600 Savings groups; now it has 23,000.

Certain war correspondents can qualify for the Africa Star and clasp.

About £22,000 will be spent by the Red Cross in 1944 on games for Prisoners of War in Europe. They have already sent them 13,500 musical instruments.

THE National Fire Service authorities are offering £50 for a new march specially composed for them.

The Board of Education have suggested to local authorities that school holidays should be altered from Whit Week and August to harmonise with local industrial holidays so that children can spend holidays at home with their parents.

In four years of war more than 13,000 tons of waste paper has been recovered on LMS railway property.

Micro-films of 2000 parish registers have been made, including nearly all those of London.

Youth News Reel

ROVER Scouts in a prisoner of war camp have recently held a training course for 50 Scout Leaders.

During a recent Scout Week in Canada, Scouts had the honour of raising flags on all Dominion Government Buildings. Each day a King's Scout officiated at the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.

The 1st Farnborough Troop of Boy Scouts recently staged a very successful Gang Show. It helped to raise £68 for local Church Funds.

Fifteen hundred Boys Brigaders took part recently in the annual Bible Knowledge Examination held by the Glasgow Battalion.

Wolf Cubs of Perth gave a very bright concert and raised £23 for the local Prisoners of War Fund.

A land yacht with an estimated speed of 40 miles an hour has been built by the 29th Margate Scout Troop.

Britain's Aid For the Colonies

JAMAICA is to receive a grant of £525,000, the largest so far made under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1940. This gift comes from Britain, to assist the development of the colony's farming for the next five years, the Jamaica Government being free to use the money as it thinks best for this general purpose.

The people of Jamaica themselves will benefit as a whole; they are nearly all farmers and land workers, for their island has no mines and even its industries depend mainly on local farming and forest produce.

The grant to Jamaica is the latest of over 300 grants or loans made by Britain to various countries of the Colonial Empire since 1940. In the July of that year—at the dark time of the Battle of Britain—Parliament passed the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, authorising the expenditure on schemes for social and economic welfare of £5,000,000 a year for ten years, as well as £500,000 a year for research.

Before the passing of the Act the colonial territories had only been able to develop their industries, farming, and social services within their own revenue resources, although some of them had been helped from time to time by special grants from Britain. This had meant that in territories like Malaya, with its very prosperous rubber and tin industries, or Northern Rhodesia, with its rich copper mines, there was enough money for public services; but in territories less rich in natural resources the necessary public revenue was not forthcoming. With the passing of the Act some £10,000,000 worth of loans which Britain had previously made to the colonies was cancelled, because the payment of interest would have strained colonial resources.

The Act was Britain's way of recognising her greater responsibility to the more needful of the 63 million people of the Colonial Empire. The Motherland had already promised that they should all be set on the road towards political self-government.

Now she guaranteed that, side by side with political development, should come a steady advance in nutrition, in health services, in education, and in all other services necessary to a well-ordered state.

The work of social advancement for the Colonies is today being tackled by Britain and the Colonies together in a kind of senior-junior partnership. All the Colonies have different needs, and they put forward their requests for help through their own governments to the British Government. British Guiana, for instance, asked for money for an anti-malaria campaign; Sierra Leone wanted 65,000 acres of swamp to be drained; and Swaziland wanted more money for native African education.

As far as possible the colonial people themselves are being drawn into the carrying out of the schemes. In the Gambia, for instance, money has been set aside to provide medical training for Africans, and so add to the growing number of colonial peoples already engaged in the public services of their own countries. In Jamaica the young people are being drawn in, for the British Government has made a special grant to the Boy Scouts Association there, and is encouraging the setting up of Youth Councils.

There is still, of course, a very long way to go before the many needs of the people of the Colonies are satisfied. That is why the Secretary of State for the Colonies has said: "The £5,000,000 a year for which the Colonial Development and Welfare Act makes provision is not going to be too much, but is going to be too little." This augurs well for the work that the senior partner on the job intends to undertake in the future.

KAGAWA CARRIES ON

READERS of the CN know of the great work Kagawa, the famous Japanese Christian, has performed in the past.

Dr William Axling, an American Baptist missionary who has been repatriated from Japan, brings this account of him:

"Kagawa continues to be the most outstanding Christian personality and influence in Japan. Under the evangelistic board of the United Church he moves from city to city carrying on a quiet campaign centred in the Churches, with a view to strengthening the Christians and helping them to maintain their morale."

Another returned missionary

says that Church attendance has fallen off in Japan because of the demands of the war effort—mothers get tired queueing for food, and pastors have additional duties. The Church in Japan is not being persecuted, but most of the young men have been called to the colours, and many of the younger pastors spend five days a week on non-Church work. Christian social work has, however, increased in size and scope. The United Church of Christ in Japan (Protestant) publishes eight strong periodicals, and the National Christian Council, which includes members of the Roman Catholic Church, still flourishes.

More Acres For Food

SPEAKING at Taunton the other day, Mr R. S. Hudson, Minister of Agriculture, said that he was asking farmers to make even greater efforts.

He was asking for an additional 700,000 acres to be ploughed up, even though he knew that farmers could not count on a total labour force this year greater than that of

1943. At harvest-time we should have to rely once more upon the help of volunteers.

With mutual confidence between the farmers and the nation, Mr Hudson said he believed agriculture had the chance of a lifetime. We should be able to compete, without undue assistance, with fair competition from abroad.

The Children's Newspaper, March 4, 1944

THE POPE'S COWS

The Vatican has seen few stranger spectacles than one that now daily excites interest and attention. The Pope's cows have been housed in the basement under the incomparable library! Their real home is at Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's summer residence on Lake Albano, 13 miles from Rome; but as the road leading into that part of the country has become too hazardous for the Vatican's daily milk supplies, the cows, with their attendants, have been transferred to classical sanctuary.

Over their heads they have one of the world's vastest collections of learning, for books among the rarest and most precious in existence are included in its quarter of a million volumes, while Greek, Latin, and Oriental manuscripts, dear to the scholar's heart, number nearly 35,000.

HEALTH IN INDUSTRY

One sign of the increased interest in industrial medicine caused by the war is the publication of a new journal, the British Journal of Industrial Medicine. It is to be published quarterly, and edited by Dr Donald Hunter of the London Hospital.

It will be of the greatest use to all medical men who advise or tend the staffs of industrial works, and employers can gain knowledge from it on all relevant matters, such as absenteeism from sickness, nutrition, heating, and ventilation, concerning the health and efficiency of the workers.

THE PERFECT DIPLOMAT

Some children can give their elders lessons in gratitude and gentle loving courtesy. A little girl of four affords the newest example.

After a long spell in hospital she has just been returned to her home, there to undergo a long spell of convalescence. On her homecoming day she was surprised to see her brother tiptoe into the room, pushing a large doll's perambulator. "Oh, a pram!" cried the little invalid. "It's for you—from daddie," explained the boy. "Oh, it isn't, it can't be!" exclaimed the girl, with tears of delight.

Assured that it was actually hers, the little girl touched it again and again. But then she saw a slightly older sister gazing in wistful silence at the new pram, and she realised that the gift was bigger and better than the pram owned by the sister. The little invalid beckoned her to her and lovingly whispered, "When we go out you shall wheel it!" Could solace be more tactfully conveyed?

The Roast Beef of Old England

SPEAKING at a meeting of the Farmers Club the other day, Mr A. P. McDougall urged that the Government should adopt a long-term policy for the increase of livestock in this country.

No synthetic food discovered by our scientists, he said, has yet been able to replace the products of livestock in the national diet. Mr McDougall deplored the present price policy of the Ministries of Food and Agriculture, which supported the grain farmers and discouraged home production of meat. He concluded that were it not for the farmer's deeply implanted love for his livestock, and the

A NEW campaign to be launched in the South-West Pacific should have an important effect on future military operations, although it is not aimed at the Japanese. The offensive is against *anopheles*, the malaria-carrying mosquito.

This scheme to keep Allied and American troops and the local populations healthy is to be financed under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1940, and an initial grant of £65,000 to cover three years has been made for the purpose.

The *anopheles* mosquito, and consequently malaria, has hitherto been unknown in Fiji, Tonga, the Cook Islands, the Loyalty Islands, New Caledonia, the

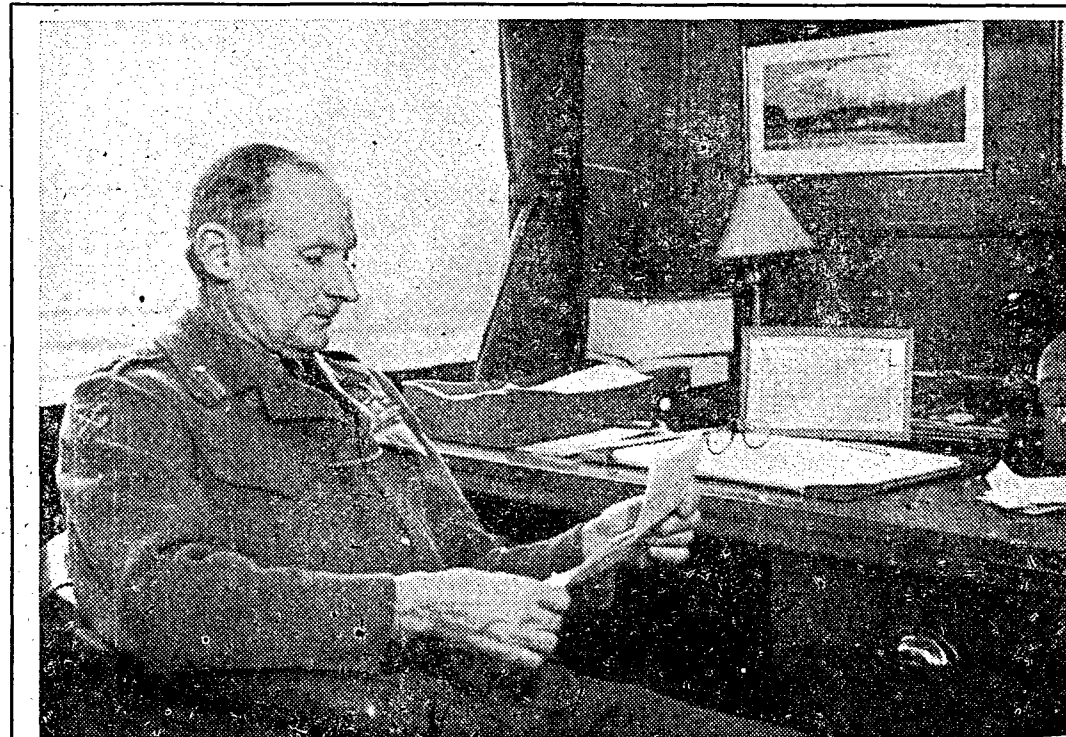
Gilbert and Ellice Islands, and Samoa. In the islands to the west of these, however, malaria is widely distributed.

In peacetime, when there was little shipping traffic between the islands, and air services were unknown, the danger of spread of infection was small, and the routine malaria control was considered sufficient. But, since the outbreak of war, the establishment of large garrisons and the increase of air and sea traffic between the islands have greatly increased the danger of introducing malaria to the "clean" islands. It is now necessary to eliminate places where *anopheles* mosquitoes would breed if by any chance they were introduced.

A start is to be made with entomological surveys near shores and ports, and reconnaissance surveys of all potential breeding grounds. Normal anti-mosquito work will be intensified and danger places will be cleared, drained, and oiled where necessary. At the same time an engineer will prepare a scheme for mosquito-control on a long-term basis.

The measures to be taken will also wipe out the mosquitoes other than *anopheles* already present in Fiji, which are carriers of such diseases as dengue fever and filariasis, and which would be a serious menace if yellow fever should ever be introduced to the territory.

A New Pacific Offensive



Invasion Chief

General Montgomery has been visiting the units under his command for the invasion of Europe, using a special train for the purpose. Here is "Monty" dealing with his correspondence in his train office.

100,000 PHOTOGRAPHS

The Central Council for the Care of Churches has in its keeping a wonderful photographic record of our hallowed heritage—of the English churches and their priceless possessions.

Over 700 enthusiastic amateur photographers are giving their services to this national record, and 25,000 pictures were added last year to a valuable collection, which now totals over 100,000.

PRINCESS ELIZABETH

The announcement is made that the King has decided not to adopt the suggestion that Princess Elizabeth should be created Princess of Wales on April 21, 1944, her eighteenth birthday.

It should be clearly understood, however, that in the event of Princess Elizabeth succeeding to the Throne after her eighteenth birthday has been reached she would do so as a reigning Queen, in the same way that Queen Victoria did when she became Queen less than a month after her eighteenth birthday. There would be no necessity for a regency, any more than there was in the case of Queen Victoria.

SEQUEL

Many newspapers have been recalling the story of Captain Troubridge's capture of Rome in Nelson's day. We told it in the CN a few weeks ago; but we failed to call attention to this very happy sequel. The crossed keys of St Peter, which are the Papal arms, have ever since appeared in the arms of the famous Troubridge family, who have sent their sons into the Royal Navy in one generation after another, to win an endless record of distinctions.

RESTOCKING A RIVER

Plans are in hand for restocking the River Witham, which was recently heavily polluted and lost over 100,000 fish in a day.

Lincolnshire angling associations have decided to net the fish in Branton Hall lake, estimated at 30,000, and place them equally between the Upper Witham and the locks. Another lake containing over 20,000 fish may also be used for restocking.

The Legion's Progress

"WITHIN the meaning of the law the British Legion has been ruled by the umpires to be a workers' association," Mr Bevin has said. Therefore, it is gratifying to learn from the Legion's 23rd Annual Report that its membership is growing.

But the British Legion has always been more than a workers' association; it has been a kindly godfather to the ex-Service community, and its prestige has remained high largely because of its ever-increasing benevolent activities.

One of the most encouraging signs is the great number of men and women leaving the Forces

A GRIM WATCH

The children of St Helena have improved on our own "rat week," and have just concluded a six months' campaign, in which they destroyed 6000 rats. In all probability these rats were descendants of rats Napoleon saw when a prisoner there. They swarmed in his home at Longwood while he was living there, and they swarmed there after his death.

An Irish soldier, who had fought the French throughout the Peninsular War and had been sent with a detachment of his regiment to St Helena, sat by the Emperor's body on the night of his death. He had grown fond of Napoleon during his years of duty at Longwood, and it was as a volunteer that the Irishman kept that long night vigil. His duty was to guard the dead Emperor, and his grim task was made grimmer because of repeated attacks by the Longwood rats; again and again he had to fire his gun as the animals grew overbold.

The Irish soldier faithfully discharged his trust, and in due course returned home. We remember him, not for himself, but because he had a famous grandson. He was Arthur Sullivan, the immortal composer.

THEY WILL REMEMBER

The relatives of Sergeant J. Parry, of Rhyl, killed in action in Italy, have received information that a cross has been placed on his grave by local Italian people. The cross bears an inscription stating that it was set up by "Grateful people he helped to liberate."

There speaks the heart of a kindly nation freed from the evil influence of Fascism.

AUSTRALIAN BUSH FIRES

Serious bush fires occurred in Australia in January, when it was officially estimated that 3000 square miles of country were scorched, causing damage estimated at £5,000,000. We regret to learn that further fires broke out in the middle of February, causing serious damage in many small townships, and killing hundreds of sheep and cattle.

The full extent of the further damage is not yet known as we write, but 45 human beings have been reported as having perished. The loss of livestock is now numbered in thousands, and there is serious loss of fodder which must seriously affect dairying.

Australia has worked devotedly for the Allied cause since the first day of war and the whole Empire deeply sympathises with her in this terrible tragedy.

fact that he did not think only in terms of money, there would not be a cattle beast feeding in the yards of England today.

That British-bred livestock are still in demand abroad was clearly indicated the other day by Dr Miguel Carcano, the Argentine Ambassador to Great Britain, when he visited Perth for the annual show of Short-horn bulls. Dr Carcano said: "We need your excellent cattle in hundreds"; and of the Short-horns he added, "The more I see of this breed the more strongly I feel that we must import more top bulls of this type."

who join the Legion, and thus show the desire of the present generation to link up with those of the last war in facing the coming problems of demobilisation. The Legion will help them all.

During the past year the Legion has seen the completion of certain phases of its Planning Committee's work, Government adoption of much of its Pensions policy, and recognition of the right of the disabled to work.

Much has the British Legion achieved, but it is resolved not to slacken its efforts for those whom it exists to protect, and in that way do great service to the nation as a whole.

The EDITOR'S TABLE

ELECTRICAL REFORM

STANDARD voltage throughout the country is strongly urged by the Institute of Electrical Engineers in its report on re-organisation of electricity supply after the war. Indeed, it puts it first among matters of immediate urgency to be dealt with. There are no technical difficulties, and complete standardisation could be completed within five years.

In reviewing the position in 1939 we find that 7,900,000 urban dwellings out of 10,700,000 were supplied with electricity, but in addition to some 35,000 farms, only 1,100,000 out of twice that number of rural dwellings were supplied. To complete rural electrification financial aid will be needed, and it must be carried out. The Grid system has helped rural areas, but there are still too many gaps; and the whole problem of electricity supply calls for urgent solution.

Preserving the New Forest

THE announcement that the Ministry of Agriculture is considering a scheme for enclosing a further 1000 acres of heathland in the New Forest has been received with mixed feelings. It is possibly not realised that the grazing rights on this poor land are of very real value to small-holders, enabling them to keep enough cattle to pay their way.

The Commons Defence Association and the Verderers have agreed not to oppose the proposal provided that they receive a guarantee that the enclosures will not be permanent and that the land will be returned to the open forest in not more than four years.

We hope that this pledge will be given, both in the local and in the national interests. For any further curtailment of the forest area would also mean loss to those, and there are many, who love its natural beauty. The New Forest should surely become a permanent national park and playground.

Under the Editor's Table

SOMEONE has been talking about the Peter Puck Wants to Know generous days of peace. We must save in the meantime.

WE are asked to make our blackout curtains see us through. But nobody must see through them.

AN author has made a special study of trees. Must be a log cabin.

WHAT shape will the post-war world take? There must be enough to go round.



What the man who keeps late hours does with them.

The School and the Country Child

A CORRESPONDENT to The Times, Mr Hugh Lewen, has some interesting things to say about the adaptation of the school for the country child.

While the standard of education and the curriculum, he says, should be like that of other schools whether situated in town or country, in the country school there should be a bias towards country life. Thus mathematics should be learned by measuring fields and timber and stacks and ponds and distances, and by making maps and plans. A love of history and of England must come by first learning about their neighbourhoods, earthworks, trackways, the

names of farms and fields, and chiefly from a study of that epitome of our English story—the village church. Science should be learned from the soil and its treatment, the weather, the rotation of crops, the thousand forms of life, and by seeing things grow and change.

In fact, all teaching and learning would be alive, and so would be the children. Perhaps town children would be drawn to schools like these and learn to reverence Mother Earth, to know the dignity of labour and the wisdom of the sons of the soil, and the works of God.

We heartily commend these views to all educationists.

MORE BEER CONSUMED

It is now revealed that, in spite of war taxation, the output of beer in 1943 amounted to 29,550,000 barrels, an increase of 785,000 barrels. This is the highest output of the war.

The British people are now drinking roundly 18 gallons of beer per head in a year, compared with 14 gallons before the war.

We may note, however, that in 1900 the consumption of beer was 31 gallons per head, but it was then so much cheaper that the cost of this 31 gallons was only about one-fourth of the

cost of the 18 gallons per head consumed today.

The cost of drinking beer this year will be nearly double the £178,000,000 spent on beer in 1939, the year in which the war began. Nearly all this increase goes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer through the bigger taxation, the tax now paid amounting to nearly 9d a pint, an increase of 6d since the beginning of the war.

Despite the effects of taxation, however, the brewers are doing well, many of them making record profits!

FLATS & CHILDREN

It is only too likely that plans will have to be made for many blocks of flats in the vast post-war building programme.

That being so it is essential that proper provision should be made for young families. Flats should be planned to surround internal courtyards, which not only help good lighting and ventilation, but form excellent small playgrounds.

Children being what they are (and we would not have them otherwise!) it is also necessary that flats should be built with soundproof walls, which would help to reduce the noise of their boisterous games.

JUST AN IDEA

The best-educated man is one who schools himself every day.

A Letter From Home

Few things mean so much to the soldier as letters from home. A mail that brings him no news of his loved ones means just another wasted day.

Those left at home usually make it a pleasant duty to write to their men in the Forces as often and as fully as they can. But there are, alas, many people who find letter-writing a laborious task, and their letters are all too inadequate and infrequent.

To put such troubles right a number of good folk all over the country have volunteered to give some of their spare time to composing and writing letters for those who find difficulty in doing so. After a chat with the family anyone with a facile pen can soon write a bright and newsy letter telling the exile all the domestic trifles and local gossip that he longs for.

The professional letter writer has long been an established figure in Eastern lands. There is undoubtedly room here for the enthusiastic amateur.

United Squander Bugs

AMERICA now has its own Squander Bug, a rather more comical-looking pest than the British species, with long scraggy legs and an inane smile. But it has the same vicious habit of irresponsible spending—an appetite as voracious for Uncle Sam's dollars as our own Squander Bug has for John Bull's pounds; and it is just as insidious a foe of the United Nations' war effort.



Pottery Students

Pottery-making is a popular subject at the Arts and Crafts School, Guildford, where we see this kiln being packed.

NO NEED FOR PESSIMISM

A GLOOMY view of affairs was expressed the other day by the Revd W. R. Inge, former Dean of St Paul's, in a letter to The Times. He concluded thus:

"As General Smuts told us the other day, we shall be a very poor country after the war."

We commented on the utterance of General Smuts soon after it had been published. Dr Inge is a serious student of economics and understands the foundation of British wealth, so he has a right to be heard in any discussion on our national prospects.

It is impossible not to concede, if we remember the growth of our national debt, the loss of so much shipping, the selling out of overseas investments, the virtual fall of population, and the probable growth of competition, that the nation faces a critical period. It will assuredly need to rally its resources and remodel its activities if it is to face worse things than a repetition of the sequence of booms and depressions which occurred after the last World War, and which still troubled us when the present war broke out.

What can we do?

It is clear that we must put an end to the waste and misdirected efforts which have been sometimes revealed in the application of industry to the needs of war; but no foreign enemy can prevent us from developing our own resources in land, in people, in homes, and in workplaces. Let us never forget what was said by Ruskin in his Unto This Last:

"There is no wealth but life. Life including all its powers of love, of joy, and of admiration. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings."

Let us also contrast with these inspiring words others he wrote in denunciation of social neglect:

"The great cry which rises from all our manufacturing cities, louder than the furnace blast, is all in very deed for this: that we manufacture there every thing except men. We blanch cotton and strengthen steel and refine sugar and shape pottery;

but to brighten, to strengthen, to refine, or to form a single living spirit never enters into our estimate of advantages."

If we learn in our schools and universities, and in the very living of life, to devote ourselves to the building of a truly civilised community, well taught, well housed, and with its trained manufacturing skill producing what is worthy to be manufactured, we shall derive wealth and beauty from our soil, power from our mines, splendid products from our workshops and factories. Our goods will be bought at home and abroad because they are essentially worth buying; we can apply organisation at home and abroad to add pride and prestige to the British name, and banish poverty and the fear of it.

The success of the future may far outshine the accumulation of riches which were properly denounced as unworthy and unhealthy by John Ruskin and Thomas Carlyle, both of whom in their day warned their countrymen that in order to produce true wealth we must study the output and also the cultivation of proud and happy human beings, and not believe that our nation's existence depends on selling stuff at a farthing an ell cheaper than any other people.

Newspaper Buys a Radio Station

An interesting combination of a great American newspaper and a broadcasting company is reported. The New York Times has agreed to purchase the Interstate Broadcasting Company, subject to the U.S. Government's approval. This company works the station WQXR in New York. It is said that no change in the station's personnel or programmes is contemplated.

It is not fully realised in this country that company-owned radio broadcasting is the rule in America; it is usually in alliance with big advertisers who sponsor programmes to draw attention to their wares.

A Peace League Plan of 1693

Two hundred and fifty years ago, the great Quaker and Democrat, William Penn, who gave his name to Pennsylvania, had the courage, and it required great courage in 1693, to publish an essay strongly advocating the establishment of a "European Diet, Parliament, or Estates." The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has recently given prominence to this little-known work in its publication, *International Conciliation*.

Penn's proposal was for the establishment by the European nations of a general European Parliament and a Code of Justice to govern the relations of the member States, and thus establish permanent peace.

The suggestion was that this United European Parliament should have 90 members, the Empire of Germany to send twelve; France ten; Spain ten; Italy eight; England six; Portugal three, Swedeland four; Denmark three; Poland four; Venice three; the seven provinces four; the thirteen cantons and neighbouring sovereignties two; the dukedoms of Holstein and Courland one each; and "if the Turks and Muscovites are taken in, as seem fit and just, they will make ten apiece more."

To avoid quarrels as to precedence, the essay suggested, the meeting chamber might be circular, and have diverse doors to come in and go out at.

The States might preside by turns, the president for the time being might state the questions to go to a vote, which should be by ballot "after the prudent and commendable manner of the Venetians." Nothing in this imperial Parliament should pass but by consent of three-quarters of the whole. As to the language used, to be sure it must be in Latin or French; the first for civilians, but the last most easy for men of quality."

Considering objections, Penn scorned the conception that a disuse of soldiery would cause effeminacy. Each sovereignty could introduce as temperate or severe a discipline in the education of youth as they please to instruct them in knowledge and philosophy, which is the honour of the German nobility. The knowledge of Nature and the useful as well as agreeable operation of Art gave men an understanding of themselves, of the world they were born into, how to be useful and serviceable, how to save and help, not injure, or destroy.

Passing to the real benefits that flow from peace, Penn spoke of the spilling of human and Christian blood as offensive to God, and how the whole world would gain by the cessation of war in Christendom, of the great saving of the intolerable expenses of war, and the cessation of the laying waste of territories, of the security and ease of travel and trade which follow peace, of the increase of personal friendship and intercourse, of the great gain to princes themselves.

We may recall that Penn's plea for a European League of Nations was written in the days when Louis the Fourteenth was still the most formidable enemy of peace in Europe, and all the smaller States went in fear of his power. William Penn's ideas were ignored and wars went on.

Nature's Merciful Provision

A FAMOUS surgeon, Dr Harold Burrows, has been writing in the *Lancet* of his experience with victims of sudden, severe wounds. These wounds, he finds, are at first quite painless. If, however, a man cries out on sustaining a hurt, the wound is almost certainly not a serious one.

The doctor's communication is borne out by the testimony of men who sustained grave injury long before the war. One night the future King Edward the Seventh had, at his table two maimed guests, whom chance placed side by side. One, Sir Edward Bradford, had had his left forearm bitten off by a tiger; his neighbour, Rustem Pasha, the Turkish ambassador, had lost

half his right hand and part of his left in an encounter with a great bear. Neither of the two, it came out, had felt the least pain at the time their injuries were sustained.

Livingstone, who carried to his grave the scar of an old injury caused by a lion gnawing his arm, was equally free from suffering during his terrible ordeal. Yet all three men were fully conscious and mentally alert while making their successful bid for life.

In such extremities of peril Nature seems to furnish a charm of numbness which, for the time being, pain is unable to pierce. There is comfort in that thought.

EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY

THE problem of re-educating German, Italian, and Japanese children imbued with the evil doctrines of Nazism and similar faiths is one of the most difficult which will arise after the war. In Southern Italy the problem is already under way.

Since the Anglo-American invasion many young Italians have been having a prolonged holiday from school, though it is hoped that very soon there will be as many as 125,000 attending school in the province of Naples. The delay in reopening many schools has been inevitable, for A M G O T

found in Sicily a need for a thorough purge of all Fascist elements among the native teachers and officials before letting them start work again.

All existing school-books have to be closely examined, and hundreds have already been destroyed. To meet the urgent demand for new books several committees of leading Italian citizens have been set up under the guidance of a Chicago educationist, Major C. W. Washburne.

By promoting education in this way the foundations of Peace and Good Will will be firmly laid.

CARRY ON

THE WONDER OF THE UNIVERSE

LET us try to realise something of the wonder in which He has set us.

It is beyond our power to understand the glory of the Universe. The plain truth of it is beyond the wildest reach of our imagining. We look up at the stars by night, and the stillness of the skies seems a wonderful thing; but it is more wonderful than we know, for the stars whirl about with unthinkable speed, dazzling space with their light.

Nothing that we know moves anything like so fast; no other light we have ever seen is so bright. One small star among this host is a laggard, creeping through space at 8000 miles an hour, and attending him on his round is a tiny globe a million times smaller, lit up with the light of the laggard star.

The laggard is the Sun, and the little globe is the Earth.

Arthur Mee

A Sympathy With Sounds

THERE is in souls a sympathy with sounds, And as the mind is pitched the ear is pleased With melting airs or martial, brisk or grave, Some chord in unison with what we hear Is touched within us, and the heart replies. How soft the music of those village bells

Falling at intervals upon the ear In cadence sweet! now dying all away, Now pealing loud again and louder still, Clear and sonorous as the gale comes on. With easy force it opens all the cells Where memory slept.

William Cowper

An Unknown Vein of Gold

ALTHOUGH men are accused for not knowing their own weakness, yet, perhaps, as few know their own strength. It is in men as in soils, where sometimes there is a vein of gold which the owner knows not of.

Jonathan Swift

GOD'S PRESENCE

GOD of all lovely growing things, In Nature all around I see The glory that Thy Presence brings— Sweet foretaste of what is to be.

God of all lovely growing things, From worldly cares to Thee I flee; When close to Nature, my heart sings; Adoring Thee, I bow the knee.

God of all lovely growing things, I lift my weary eyes to Thee; From Thine Almighty Presence springs Renewing power required by me.

David Effaye

A Humble Harbinger of Spring

WELCOME, flower, that year by year, Punctual to your season, peer Through the half-thawed earth to bring News of the approaching spring. Shame it is there are so few Will spare a loving thought for you. Snowdrop, crocus, daffodil, Let men praise them as they will, For fair they are; but fair are you, You deserve a greeting too. Not in park or garden-bed Look we for your golden head, Never gardener tilled the earth That should give your beauty birth, But on common or waste ground

Or sordid slag-heap you are found, Lending with your lovely face A splendour to the meanest place. Yet 'mid beauty too you dwell, And this morning it befell, As by Kenwood ponds I strolled, On the bank a patch of gold Told me you were here once more With news that spring is at the door. As I gazed, I joyed to hear Passers-by who praised you, dear, Though they knew not what to call you; But I knew you; fair befall you, Humble coltsfoot; here do I Vow to love you till I die!

H. Idris Bell

ALL NATIONS SHALL SERVE HIM

GIVE the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son.

He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment.

The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness.

He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.

They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations.

He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass, as showers that water the earth.

In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth.

He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.

They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust.

All kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall serve him.

He shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.

He shall spare the poor, and shall save the souls of the needy.

His name shall endure as long as the sun, and all nations shall call him blessed.

Blessed be the Lord God who doeth wondrous things.

Blessed be his glorious name for ever; let the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Psalms 72

Salute the New-Born Day

WISHED Morning's come; and now upon the plains, And distant mountains, where they feed their flocks, The happy shepherds leave their homely huts, And with their pipes proclaim the new-born day. The lusty swain comes with his well-filled scrip Of healthful viands, which, when hunger calls, With much content and appetite he eats, To follow in the field his daily toil,

And dress the grateful glebe that yields him fruits. The beasts that under the warm hedges slept, And weathered out the cold bleak night, are up; And, looking towards the neighbouring pastures, raise Their voice, and bid their fellow-brutes good morrow. The cheerful birds, too, on the tops of trees Assemble all in choirs; and with their notes Salute and welcome up the rising sun.

Thomas Otway



THIS ENGLAND

The ancient church of Checkendon in the Oxfordshire Chilterns

SHELLING THE ICE

"AUSTERLITZ over again!" declared many people on reading how the Germans, fleeing westward from the Leningrad front, fired on the ice of the frozen river in the hope of engulfing the pursuing Russians.

So came once more into prominence, after nearly 140 years, a little-challenged legend of how at Austerlitz cannon-fire on ice played the most sensational part. The conflict was nearing its close, and Napoleon had forced his fleeing enemy, the Russians and Austrians, to cross in great numbers the ice-covered lake of Telnitz, which stretched in two halves before the retreating forces.

It is always accounted a supreme example of Napoleon's readiness of resource that, quickly grasping the situation, he ordered his gunners to direct a plunging fire on the ice, so smashing it and drowning a vast body of mingled infantry and cavalry. Such, with his passion for drama, was the description he himself sent his government at the close of the conflict. The Tsar adopted the story, and, welcoming the report as some excuse for the great defeat of himself

and his ally, the Austrian Emperor, used to say that the tragedy cost him 20,000 men.

The truth, however, is that, anxious to verify his first report, Napoleon, soon after the battle, caused the two halves of the lake to be drained. In the lower lake there was not a single body; in the other, two or three drowned men were lying, with the bodies of some 150 horses. So it is a mere legend that gives exceptional horror to the battle of Austerlitz. Like Hitler, Napoleon never withdrew an untruth that he had uttered. He relished the terrible romance of his Austerlitz story; his report remained officially uncontradicted, and has found its way into history.

Let us hope that the recent fire of German guns on the river the Russians were crossing was no more destructive than that of the French guns whose thunder still echoes with lying exaggeration in the tragedy of Austerlitz.

The Exploit of the Unseen

THE submarine Unseen has returned home after sailing 23,000 miles in Mediterranean waters. During her cruise of 16 months she has sunk or damaged 10 German troop transports and a schooner, totalling nearly 20,000 tons of Axis shipping.

Her commander, Lieut M. L. C. Crawford, R.N., and her first lieutenant, Lieut B. Charles, R.N.R., have been awarded the D.S.C.; 6 members of her crew

have received the D.S.M.; and 3 men and one officer have been mentioned in dispatches.

The exploit which is the most notable of all occurred when the Unseen was attacked by enemy destroyers. So heavy were the depth-charge attacks that, to escape them, the submarine was forced to dive 145 feet below the depths for which she was designed; yet though this was a record dive for submarines of her class she suffered no damage.

Salute These Men!

Inventors' Cavalcade, by Egon Larsen. (Lindsay Drummond, 10s 6d)

As we finished reading this book and put it aside, inevitably there came to mind the lines by Robert Louis Stevenson: *The world is so full of a number of things,*

I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings.

The lines are very familiar, of course, and, in fact, Mr Larsen gives them the place of honour in his book. But to feel that sentiment after reading the book is a big compliment to the author.

There is romance in invention even in these days, when so many new things come from the laboratories and test benches of wealthy corporations. Many of these, it is true, are the products of the "back room boys" and have small beginnings.

The Flying Priest

Mr Larsen looks at a number of things that are everyday wonders of our modern life, and delves into the past to show the way they have come to us—and a thrilling Cavalcade they make!

It will come as a surprise to many to read of the Jesuit priest Gusmao who made a flight in his "airship" at Lisbon in 1709, before the King and Queen of Portugal and a distinguished gathering. But, alas for poor Gusmao! He was far ahead of his time, as so many other inventors have been. His enemies spread a rumour that he was mad "and that with his diabolical machine he would bring infinite evil into the world." That was Gusmao's first and last flight. In the end even the king turned against him, and Gusmao was sane enough to realise that he could not fight against such opposition. So he destroyed his airship, burned his plans, and said goodbye to all his dreams.

The First Air Attack

It is a long road from Gusmao to Count Zeppelin and the Wrights, and one of the interesting facts we pick up on the way is that the Austrians made the first air attack in 1849, dropping over beleaguered Venice 100 bombs from pilotless balloons.

So much does the world depend on its railways that it is hard to believe that George Stephenson met with such fierce opposition little more than a century ago, when he proposed to build his Manchester-Liverpool line. Yet when it was eventually completed it was built for exactly one-tenth the cost estimated by one of the "experts" in opposition to him.

From railways to electricity, the telegraph and the telephone, to the steamship and the submarine; with chapters on the many inventions of Thomas A. Edison and the men who gave us wireless and the early days of broadcasting; and back to the story of the aeroplane—so the Cavalcade passes in this book, and when we realise that many of those who blazed the trails ended as poor men it should make us the more thankful for the richness of our inheritance.

COLOSSAL BETELGEUSE

A Sun That Waxes & Wanes

A STELLAR wonder is now in the southern heavens in the evening. This is Betelgeuse, writes the C.N. Astronomer, the brilliant yellow-tinted star that occupies the north-east corner of the famous Orion constellation. Betelgeuse together with Sirius and Procyon (described in the C.N. for January 8 and February 19 respectively) form that triangle of bright stars now so conspicuous due south between 8 and 9 o'clock.

The name Betelgeuse is Arabic and means Armpit; that is, it indicates that Betelgeuse represents the armpit of the great Hunter Orion. All the stars' names have important meanings, and it would be most undesirable to change these ancient and picturesque titles, as has been recently suggested.

Actually Betelgeuse is not part of the great Orion cluster of stars,

all of which are involved in a vast nebula and are brilliant, super-heated, blue-white stars different from Betelgeuse. On the average they are about three times farther away than Betelgeuse, which is therefore much nearer to us than the other Orion stars. Betelgeuse is, however, very much farther away than either Sirius or Procyon, which are respectively 543,240 and 665,000 times farther away than our Sun, whereas Betelgeuse is about 12,240,000 times farther than our Sun. The Orion stars, however, average from 25 to 40 million times farther away than our Sun.

So as our eyes glance from star to star we may visualise the terrific abyss of space that intervenes between them. This space looks to us quite empty and with nothing more than a star here and there. Actually, not a cubic inch, or even a small fraction thereof, is empty or can be said to consist of nothingness for *something is everywhere*. It is Radiant Energy in its various forms that completely fills these never-ending vistas in no matter what direction we look. The old-time principle that "Nature abhors a vacuum" has been

proved most effectively to be absolutely true, the more we learn about radiation; and so, while physical research reveals that *there is nothing nowhere*, metaphysical thought reveals that we cannot even logically form a conception of *absolutely nothing existing*.

The great suns of the heavens present to us the most positive evidence, from the fact that we can see them from those vast distances and through those never-ending avenues of light. But light is not the only radiation that is poured out in every direction. Radiations that penetrate even to the centre of material things are speeding in every direction also, so that there is absolutely no getting away from them. So substantial are these radiations of energy that these great suns are wasting their substance away in producing all this that is speeding through space and filling it everywhere.

Radiant Energy

Betelgeuse is thus pouring out itself, but in varying degrees, waxing and waning in the course of every five or six years, the amount of light and heat varying between 2000 and 6000 times more than our Sun. We receive into our very selves part of this outpouring of its substance in the form of Radiant Energy, while, if we think about it, it causes us to produce mental energy. So the mystery deepens. But it takes time for this radiation to reach us, that from Betelgeuse taking about 191½ years.

So vast is this colossal fount of glowing energy that were it as near as our Sun it would cover most of the sky at noonday; for its minimum diameter is about 185 million miles, that is, about 214 times the width of our Sun. But Betelgeuse undergoes terrific throes of expansive energy as its colossal and tumultuous sphere of glowing fire-mist expands to a diameter of some 260 million miles, that is, about 300 times the width of our Sun. G. F. M.



The position of Betelgeuse relative to the chief stars of the Orion cluster

BEDTIME CORNER

Hetty's Terrifying Moment

HETTY's doll was really a very beautiful one, with fair curls and blue eyes and dressed as a Red Cross nurse.

Small wonder, then, that Hetty liked taking her for a ride. She looked beautiful in her carriage, and Hetty was admiring her when she caught sight of Bobbie Wilson waving to her from the opposite side of the road.

"Come and see my doll!" she cried.

The moment she had said it she remembered that Bobbie, being a tiny little boy, was not allowed to cross the road alone. So she turned the pram and started to go across to him.

It was just at that moment that a big car swung round the corner and came towards them.

Hetty's heart went pit-a-pat. Prams are difficult things to manage. She was wondering whether to go on or turn back when, to her horror, she saw little Bobbie dart out into the road.

"Go back!" she screamed.

But Bobbie had seen the car by this time, and instead of running out of danger he stood still where he was, too terrified to move.

It takes a long time to tell, but it all happened in a flash.

It was a terrible moment for Hetty.

There was Bobbie and there was the beautiful doll in the middle of the road. There was no time to save both.



With a sob, Hetty dashed forward, lifted Bobbie in her arms and carried him out of danger.

When she looked round she expected to find doll and pram smashed to bits. But it was not so, for the driver had managed to pull up just in time.

The Children's Newspaper, March 4, 1944

Homage to Sir Henry Wood

THIS year is providing great occasions in the world of music, for by a happy chance it sees not only the 75th birthday of Sir Henry Wood, but also the 50th season of his beloved Promenade Concerts.

Sir Henry Wood's birthday is on March 3, and on that day he goes to the Royal Academy of Music to receive the homage due to the great services he has rendered throughout his long career. The Performing Rights Society, acting on behalf of his profession, is presenting him with a cheque for 1000 guineas to be dedicated to some cause of his own choice, and also with a book of tributes, including manuscript extracts of music first played under his direction, signed by the composers.

On the following day, March 4, Sir Henry Wood receives the tribute of his public at a charity concert sponsored by the Daily Telegraph in his honour and to mark the golden jubilee of the

Proms. At the Albert Hall three great orchestras—the B B C Symphony, the London Symphony, and London Philharmonic—will play under the baton of four great conductors, Sir Adrian Boult, Dr Malcolm Sargent, Basil Cameron, and Sir Henry himself. Solomon will play Rachmaninoff's third Piano Concerto.

Sir Henry Wood, Grand Old Man of Music, has an abiding place in the heart of his public, and at the close of this great concert he will come forward time and time again, radiant and justifiably proud, to bow to their rapturous applause. The Proms are a great institution in the land, and so is Sir Henry Wood. Long may he reign over them!

KEEPING FOOD PRICES DOWN

Few people realise that so largely does the Government contribute to the cost of our food that in the current year the aggregate subsidy amounts to £205,800,000.

Here are the main items:

Bread costs the consumer only 9d for the 4lb loaf, but the price would be 1s 2d but for the fact that the Government pays £60,400,000 as a subsidy on bread and flour.

Potatoes which cost 6d for 7lb at the shop, would cost 9d if the Government did not pay a subsidy of £28,600,000.

Sugar costs 4d a lb at the shop, but it would cost 5½d but for the Government subsidy of £10,500,000.

Imported meat costs us only 8½d a lb at the butchers, but it would cost us 9½d but for the Government subsidy amounting to 1d per lb. The subsidy on home-killed meat is 3½d a lb.

Other foods subsidised are oatmeal, eggs, milk, cheese, bacon.

So the nation as a whole, by money paid out of taxes, lowers the retail price of food and therefore confers a direct benefit upon those who most need it.

SYHA

WE congratulate the Youth Hostel Association of England and Wales on passing the 100,000 mark in membership; but when the respective populations are considered many more recruits must be enlisted for it to match the 32,000 of the Scottish YHA.

The English YHA has been specially handicapped by the needs of war, very many of its hostels having been handed over to State and local authorities, but it has kept its flag flying undaunted.

An enthusiastic Scot has written to the C N about the splendid progress north of the border which has developed from the first enterprise of a group of Edinburgh hikers.

No single movement in this generation has done so much as the Scottish Youth Hostel Association to open up to the average youth in Scotland the glorious scenery of every part of the land. No other single movement has done so much in recent years to attract young people from other lands to Scotland.

All sorts of buildings are used for hostels. In the Border country, where the first group was erected, old schools, castles, and country houses were in use. Later, specially designed wooden hostels were built, but even today the tremendous attraction of the hostels lies in their widely differing qualities. Some are lovely in appearance and setting, and tempt a week's stay; others are merely convenient halfway houses for a meal and a bed.

Seven new hostels were opened last year by the Association, which now has a strong following in Dundee, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Glasgow.

Snowbound

How difficult has been the task of our armies in Italy may be gathered from a letter received from a Church Army officer engaged in welfare work among the troops.

The officer tells how he had to fix snowploughs on the front of his mobile canteen. On one occasion his vehicle was stranded in the snow for three days, miles from any village or building, with snow in drifts up to six feet deep. Fortunately he succeeded in getting in touch with some Americans who were similarly stranded some miles down the road, and with their help he was able to get down to the log cabin where they were sheltering. The next day as they had little food they together decided to dig their way to a village lower in the hills, and managed to get there late in the afternoon.

ENTENTE CORDIALE

Two new pacts have been signed by the French Committee of National Liberation and the British Government. The first of these agreements fixes the Anglo-French rate of exchange in all territories administered by the Committee at 200 francs to the pound. It has also been decided that each signatory will render to the other, free of cost, all the military aid possible having regard to the best interests of the United Nations.

The Entente Cordiale is living again.

Prose Poet of the Sea

CENTENARIES come and go very quietly in these breathless, hurrying times, and one that almost passed unnoticed fell on February 24; that date was the hundredth anniversary of the birth of William Clark Russell, who has been called "the prose Homer of the great ocean."

Two Russells, father and son, shared popular esteem and affection during the 19th century, and so wide was the fame of each that their names and achievements are commonly confounded. Henry Russell, the father, was a vocalist and composer who not only delighted the greater part of the English-speaking world with his own singing, but set the whole nation singing his own songs, such as *Cheer, Boys, Cheer, A Life on the Ocean Wave*, and *There's a Good Time Coming, Boys*. He travelled the world, and so it came about that William Clark Russell, his son, was born in a New York hotel. The boy was brought home to be educated at Winchester, with a finishing course at Boulogne, and then away he went sailing too.

There was little romance for William in those sea-going ventures, for he was apprenticed at 13 to the Merchant Service when living conditions, food, and pay were at their lowest ebb in that hard service. During the night watches the men might sing his father's songs of the glories of life afloat, but the reality was vastly different. Round and round the world the boy sailed, ruining his health through the hardships and privations he suffered, but accumulating a store of knowledge that, touched by the flame of a generous imagination, were to make him the foremost sea writer of his time.

There was literature in the little sailor's blood, for his mother was a kinswoman of Wordsworth, and the song-writing genius inherited from his

gifted father lent melody to all he wrote. He left the sea after wearying, unhappy years, and was able to devote himself to writing, sometimes as journalist, but chiefly as author of books.

Since 1889 his father's *Life on the Ocean Wave* has been the official march of the Royal Marines; for half a century William Clark Russell was telling the world what ocean life actually meant to the mercantile marine. He was a born story writer, and into stirring, healthy narrative he wove a moral. He revealed the cruel abuse of men's lives, health and happiness.

The father sang of the glories of sea life, the son laboured to make them less illusory. To him merchant seamen owed it mainly that their ships were no longer permitted to sail overladen, with crews too few and food too scanty. It was no less fine a sailor than King George the Fifth who, when the novelist-reformer was 52, declared that the great improvement in the conditions of the merchant service was due in no small measure to the books of Clark Russell.

William Clark Russell's stories—breezy sea-stories like *The Wreck of the Grosvenor*, and *John Holdsworth, Chief Mate*—were as popular with our grandparents as Captain Marryat's stories. And just as Captain Marryat was the spokesman and champion of the Royal Navy, so was Clark Russell the inspired voice and spirit of the heroes of the Merchant Navy. He has been dead these 33 years, but his name and fame will endure.



You get so much more out of food if you put a little OXO in—more body and flavour.



BSA Bicycle carries ten times own weight



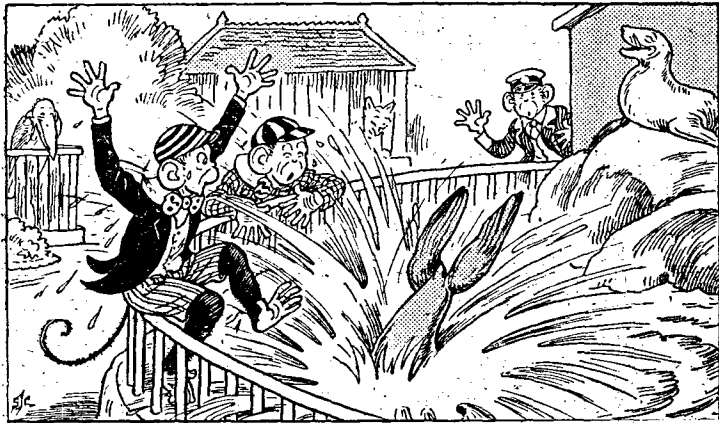
A really strong man may lift twice his own weight but that's about all, and as for carrying it miles and miles that would be impossible.

Yet here's the true story of a B.S.A. Bicycle that cheerfully carries 10 times its own weight—about 300 lbs. The owner loads it with a spade, fork, broom, tools, food, and a heavy lawn mower. Finally he mounts his B.S.A. himself and off he goes to work, thanking his stars his B.S.A. is so enormously strong.

Naturally we don't advise you to follow his example, but it just shows you what these famous machines can do. No wonder everyone wants a B.S.A. Bicycle. But they are scarce nowadays. Just the same, get your parents to put your name on the dealer's waiting list and you'll soon have a B.S.A. of your own to boast about.

BSA THE BICYCLE YOU CAN'T BEAT
B.S.A. Cycles Ltd., Birmingham, 11.

A Shower Bath For Jacko



JACKO and Chimp had decided it was high time they went to the Zoo again. When they arrived at the sea-lion enclosure, Jacko said, "I think I should get a better view of their antics if I climbed over the railings." When he was halfway over, however, one of the sea-lions suddenly dived into the water and gave them both a shower bath. And although Jacko and Chimp couldn't see anything funny in it the other sea-lion did, and the hyena thought it was enough to make a cat laugh.

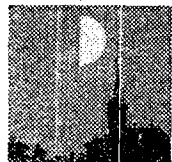
Perfectly Credible

"WHEN I was a young man," remarked the successful business man, "I often used to keep the wolf from my door by my singing."

"I can quite believe that," murmured the bored listener.

Other Worlds

IN the evening Mars, Saturn, and Uranus are in the south-west, and Jupiter is in the south-east. In the morning Venus is in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at



8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1.

Nip Colds in the Bud

The National drive to stop coughs and colds has brought one old and trusted recipe into greater favour than ever. It is the "Parmint", recipe, known as probably the quickest of all ways to get rid of a cold or cough.

Once you had to make it up yourself. Now chemists everywhere keep Parmint Syrup made up, bottled and ready for use.

It is really astonishing how effective this syrup is. Take it in good time and a single dose will often stop the cold before it develops. It's particularly good for children. It soothes and eases little throats and chests and gets them well in no time. Besides, they actually like its flavour.

Be wise. Get a bottle of Parmint Syrup from your chemist to-day and keep it handy. 1/5 the bottle including tax.

NOTE.—If you want to make it up yourself, ask for a 1 oz. bottle of the Parmint Concentrated Essences (price 3/11). It is even more economical that way.

Famous for writing!

The GILLOTT range of writing pens is the finest in the world... unequalled for variety... unsurpassed for quality... At present supplies may be limited, but the GILLOTT tradition of excellence persists.

By appointment to the late King George V.

Gillott's Pens

JOSEPH GILLOTT & SONS LTD.
VICTORIA WORKS BIRMINGHAM

The BRAN TUB

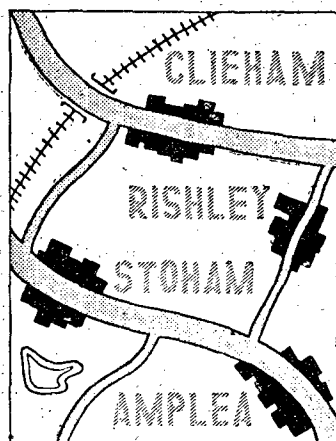
THE LIMIT!

THERE were notices asking motorists to go slowly. "Thirty at least," said the policeman as he stopped a car. "Quite wrong, constable," beamed the young WAA driver, "I'm twenty-one today."

Proving Rumour

THERE was an old lady of Kew
Who heard that the aloe tree
grew
To be centuries old,
So she bought one, I'm told,
To see if the rumour were true.

What Are Their Names?



Two boys and two girls went for a walk, and each went to a different place. The name of the place where each finished was composed of the same letters as the walker's own Christian name. Can you find all the names?

Answer next week

LOOKING AHEAD

THERE was a schoolmaster, Treborius,
Who followed a principle glorious;
He made it a rule,
When entering his school,
To his urchins to bow
(And well he knew how);
"For there may be some great man before us,"
Said respectable old Master Treborius,
Who followed a principle glorious.

The Children's Hour

Here are details of the B.C. broadcasts from Wednesday, March 1, to Tuesday, March 7.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20 The Lady with a Notebook: a programme for St David's Day showing how Jane Williams collected Welsh songs and legends, and preserved them.

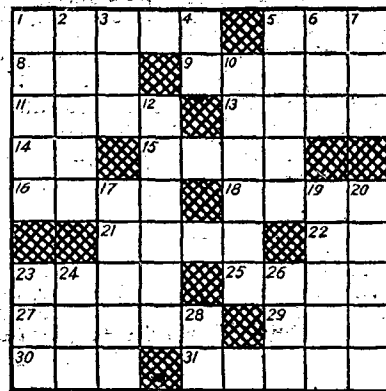
THURSDAY, 5.20 Wilfred Pickles tells the story of Ebenezer, Aunt Winterbotham's parrot, written by Dora Broome; followed by Music with a Smile, by Dobson and Young, whose amusing talks make them welcome guests among the Forces.

FRIDAY, 5.20 Another story of Little Brown Tala by May Wynne, told by Elizabeth; followed by the Thirty-Nine Steps, adapted as a play by Winifred Carey—Part 5.

Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 Acquire knowledge. 5 To nickname. 8 Former name of Civil Defence (abbrev.). 9 Musical drama. 11 In China a silver coin and a weight. 13 Sixteenth part of a rupee. 14 Exists. 15 Troubles. 16 Bird's nursery. 18 Pertaining to the air. 21 High temperature. 22 A preposition. 23 A blessing. 25 To give out. 27 The globe. 29 Employ. 30 Sooner than. 31 Mathematical snake.

Reading Down. 1 Roman. 2 To rub out. 3 To imitate. 4 Negative. 5 Compact. 6 A kind of vase. 7 What the sheep says. 10 Taste. 12 Not visible or apparent. 17 The land bordering the sea. 19 To elevate. 20 A carnivorous water mammal. 23 Busy insect. 24 Used when rowing a boat. 26 Wet, soft earth. 28 Exclamation of triumph. Answer next week



Guessing a Number

ASK a friend to think of a number, but not say what it is. Then tell him to multiply the number by four, add to it six, eight, ten, or any number you care to suggest, and then halve it, giving you the result. If you then take away half the number you told him to add and divide by two, the result will be the number he first thought of. Thus, think of 5; quadruple it, 20; add 8, 28; halve, 14; take away half 8, that is 4; 10 is left; divide by two and you have 5.

A Leap Year Changeling

CHANGE the word Leap into Year with only two intervening links, altering one letter at a time, and making a common word with each change.

Answer next week

NATURE NEWS

THERE are very many signs of returning spring this month. The lesser celandine studs every bank, the ivy-leaved speedwell and the bright yellow blossoms of the coltsfoot, whose flowers appear before the leaves, bloom almost everywhere, while in the gardens the wallflower is picturesque and the gooseberry and lilac are in leaf.

The adder, the grass snake, and the prickly little hedgehog, all of whom have been hibernating through the winter, are active once more, the hedgehog making a good pet if caught. The jelly-like masses of the frog's eggs appear on the surface of ponds, while a little later the toad, which lays its eggs in long chains, will spawn.

The Driest Place

ON the fly-leaf of a very dry book were penned these lines:
*If there should be another flood,
For refuge hither fly;
Though all the world should be submerged,
This book would still be dry.*

SATURDAY, 5.20 Nursery Rhymes with Choruses; followed by Tommy Troot's Spring Cleaning Campaign, a story by Lavinia Derwent; Scottish Students' Songs, sung by Male Voice Singers; and Pigeons in Wartime—a talk by Scott Kennedy.

SUNDAY, 5.20 The Story of Joseph, a play by L. du Garde Peach—Part 2.

MONDAY, 5.20 The Cow and the Puffer Trains, a story for small children by M. Trost; followed by Fire-Bird, the story of the famous ballet, told by Spike Hughes with extracts from Stravinsky's music. 5.45 The Zoo Man on British Birds, with records of their song.

TUESDAY, 5.30 The Kingdom of Mourne, a feature programme.

QUITE

TEACHER: What countries are on the other side of the Atlantic?

Boy: That depends on which side of the Atlantic you are standing.

A Wartime Enigma

THE Riddler is speaking,
So work with your mind,
What is it you're seeking
But hope you won't find?
Ah, no, I'm not mocking—
A hole in your stocking!

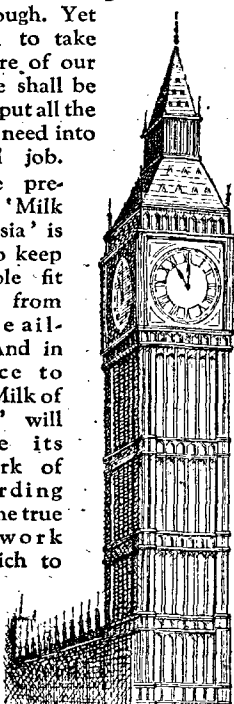
MARCH

MARCH, often a blustering windy month, was named after Mars, the god of war, whom the Romans associated with thunder and lightning. Besides invoking him in times of war, they used to pray to him for rain.

...when chimes
the
Victory hour...

... we shall have another job of work to tackle—winning the peace. It is a task that will call for new ideas and new energy. We have the sound good sense to see it through. Yet if we fail to take proper care of our health we shall be unable to put all the effort we need into this vital job.

At the present time 'Milk of Magnesia' is helping to keep the people fit and free from digestive ailments. And in the Peace to follow, 'Milk of Magnesia' will continue its good work of safeguarding health—the true groundwork upon which to build a better Britain.



'MILK OF MAGNESIA'

Trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia.